

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

AMENDMENT

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In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A dual microphone module communication device for a teleconference system having multiple microphone ports, comprising, within each microphone port:

a first microphone module for receiving a near-end audio signal and amplifying the near-end audio signal to produce a first audio signal;

a second microphone module for receiving the near-end audio signal, wherein the second microphone module has a fixed gain and the second microphone module shifts a phase of the near-end audio signal to produce a second audio signal with a phase difference relative to the near-end audio signal; and

a mixer circuit for receiving the first audio signal and the second audio signal and subtracting the second audio signal from the first audio signal to produce a third audio signal; wherein the dual microphone module communication device is characterized in that the first microphone module and the second microphone module faces a predetermined direction for receiving the near-end audio signal and ~~[[the]]~~ a loud speaker faces a direction within a range just opposite to the predetermined direction, and the direction in which the loudspeaker outputs the far-end audio signal is opposite to the predetermined direction.

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

2. (currently amended) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises:

~~a loudspeaker; and~~

a control unit coupled to the mixer circuit and the loudspeaker, wherein the control unit receives a far-end audio signal from a far-end communication terminal via a communication network and broadcasts the far end audio signal through the loudspeaker, and the control unit also converts the third audio signal into an electrical audio frequency signal and transmits the audio frequency signal to the far-end communication terminal via the communication network.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the first microphone module further comprises: a first microphone for receiving the near-end audio signal; and a gain modulation circuit coupled to the output terminal of the first microphone for amplifying the near-end audio signal to produce the first audio signal and transmitting the first audio signal to the mixer circuit.

5. (original) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the second microphone module further comprises:

a second microphone for receiving the near-end audio signal; and

a phase-shift circuit coupled to the output terminal of the second microphone,

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

wherein the phase-shift circuit has a fixed gain and the phase-shift circuit shifts the phase of the near-end audio signal to produce the second audio signal with a phase difference relative to the near-end audio signal before sending the second audio signal to the mixer circuit.

6. (original) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the mixer circuit further comprises a subtraction unit with a first signal input terminal and a second signal input terminal such that the subtraction unit subtracts the second audio signal from the first audio signal to produce the third audio signal after the first signal input terminal has received the first audio signal and the second signal input terminal has received the second audio signal.

7. (original) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the near-end audio signal further comprises an acoustic signal produced by a user or a loudspeaker.

8. (previously presented) A teleconference system, comprising:

a control unit;

an input module, having a first audio signal input terminal and a second audio signal input terminal for receiving a near-end audio signal, wherein the near-end audio signal fed to the first audio signal input terminal is amplified to produce a first audio signal, the near-end audio signal fed to the second audio signal input terminal is provided with a fixed gain and phase-shifted to produce the second audio signal

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

with a phase difference relative to the near-end audio signal, and the input module also subtracts the second audio signal from the first audio signal to produce a third audio signal;

an output module for outputting a far-end audio signal; and

a communication network coupled to the control unit and a far-end communication terminal,

wherein the control unit picks up the far-end audio signal from the far-end communication terminal via the communication network and broadcasts the audio message through the output module, the control unit also transmits the third audio signal to the far-end communication terminal via the communication network, and the teleconference system is characterized in that the input module faces a predetermined direction for receiving the near-end audio signal and the output module faces a direction within a range just opposite to the predetermined direction, and the direction in which the output module outputs the far-end audio signal is opposite to the predetermined direction.

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The teleconference system of claim 8, wherein the input module further comprises:

a gain modulation circuit coupled to the first audio signal input terminal for

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

amplifying the near-end audio signal to produce the first audio signal; a phase-shift circuit coupled to the second audio signal input terminal for fixing the gain of the near-end audio signal and shifting the phase of the near-end audio signal by a definite amount to produce the second audio signal; and a subtraction unit with a first signal input terminal, a second signal input terminal and an output terminal, wherein the subtraction unit subtracts the second audio signal from the first audio signal to produce the third audio signal at the output terminal after the first signal input terminal has received the first audio signal and the second signal input terminal has received the second audio signal.

11. (original) The teleconference system of claim 8, wherein the output module comprises a loudspeaker.

12. (original) The teleconference system of claim 8, wherein the communication network comprises a public telephone exchange network.

13. (original) The teleconference system of claim 8, wherein the near-end audio signal comprises an acoustic signal produced by a user of an output module.

14. (previously presented) A method of carrying out a teleconference, comprising:

receiving a near-end audio signal from a near-end communication terminal through an input module;

amplifying the near-end audio signal to produce a first audio signal;

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 12847-US-PA
Application No.: 10/711,670

fixing the gain of the near-end audio signal and shifting the phase of the near-end audio signal by a definite amount to produce a second audio signal; subtracting the second audio signal from the first audio signal to produce a third audio signal and transmitting the third audio signal to a far-end communication terminal; and outputting a far-end audio signal through an output module, wherein the input module faces a predetermined direction for receiving the near-end audio signal and the output module faces a direction within a range just opposite to the predetermined direction, and the direction in which the output module outputs the far-end audio signal is opposite to the predetermined direction.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of transmitting the third audio signal to the far-end communication terminal comprises:

converting the third audio signal into an electrical audio frequency signal; and transmitting the electrical audio frequency signal to the far-end communication terminal via a communication network.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the communication network comprises a public telephone exchange network.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the near-end audio signal comprises an acoustic signal produced by at least one user.